AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

If entered, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method of embedding camera information and image capture related information in a digital form of an image, comprising:

receiving information on a first static camera characteristic suitable to enhance image reproduction;

receiving camera setting information related to a first captured digitized image;

generating an encryption key based at least in part on the first static camera characteristic;

embedding a watermark in said first captured digitized image, wherein the watermark contains at least a portion of the information on the first static characteristic and at least a portion of the camera setting information related to said first captured digitized image; and

encrypting the watermark using the encryption key.

2. (original) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first static camera characteristic is an camera image sensor bad pixel characteristic.

3. (original) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first static camera characteristic is related to a sensor current value.

4. (original) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first static camera characteristic is related to a camera image sensor sensitivity.

5. (original) The method as defined in Claim I, wherein the camera setting information includes information related to the flash intensity used to capture the first captured digitized image.

6. (original) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising including information in the watermark related to the ambient light present when the image was captured by the camera.

7. (original) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising including at least a first dynamically measured camera characteristic in the watermark.

8. (previously presented) A digital camera system, comprising:

an imager;

a first static camera characteristic associated with the imager in regard of enhancing image reproduction;

a first variable camera setting;

a watermark generator used to embed in the form of a watermark at least one of said first static camera characteristic and said first variable camera setting information in an image captured by the camera; and

a key generator configured to generate an encryption key used to

encrypt the watermark.

9. (original) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein the watermark is visually perceptible.

10. (original) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein the watermark is visually imperceptible.

11.. (original) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein said first variable camera setting is a shutter speed.

12. (original) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein said first variable camera setting is an aperture setting.

13. (original) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein said first variable camera setting is a flash setting.

14. (original) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein said first static camera characteristic is related to an imager current.

15. (original) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein said first static camera characteristic is related to defective pixels associated with the imager.

16. (original) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein said first static camera characteristic is gamma information.

Claims **17-25** cancelled

26. (currently amended) A method of including camera information and image capture related information in association with a digital form of an image, comprising:

capturing an image:

digitizing the image;

receiving information on a first static camera characteristic suitable to enhance image reproduction;

receiving camera setting information related to a first captured digitized image;

inserting in a data set associated with the digitized image at least a portion of the information on the first static characteristic; and

transmitting the digitized image and the data set to an image processor.